



Shelter In Place

So far you've received information to help you prepare for hazardous chemical emergency. Now let's turn our attention to what to do in the remote chance such an emergency happens in your neighborhood.

First, take action:

- Immediately go inside.
- Shut off heaters and air conditioners.
- Close all fireplace dampers. You do not want the outside air to be pulled into your house.

Shelter in Place: Go to the area you've chosen as your Shelter in Place.

- Close all doors, windows, vents and any other openings to the outside.
- Insure that all the openings are sealed air tight with duct tape or wet towels.
- If you think chemicals are still leaking into your home, cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth or towel.
- Tune into your local news radio or local TV station to learn more about the emergency. Do not leave unless you are asked to do so.

Stay off the phone: During any emergency it is important to stay off the phone. Do not tie up regular or cellular phone lines needed by the fire, police or sheriff department.

Only call 911 if there is an injury or other immediate emergency. Do not call 911 for information on the status of the emergency.

Listen to Radio or TV: The best thing you can do is stay put and listen to the radio and TV as the spill or release is monitored by local officials.

If an evacuation is necessary, in most cases your local fire department or law enforcement agency will contact you with complete instructions on what to do. When the emergency is over, the fire department will issue an "all clear". At that time you can open windows and doors to let in fresh air and move your family outside.

If You Are Asked To Shelter-In-Place:

- Make sure you are in the area that is being asked to shelter-in-place.
- Stay inside until county officials tell you it is safe to go out, or until they ask you to evacuate.
- Close all windows, doors and vents, including dryer vents.
- Turn off all sources of outside air, including fireplace dampers and heating or cooling units.
- If you have these materials and supplies, collect them to help you shelter in place-scissors, tape, plastic sheeting, towels (to put under doors), radio, flashlight, snack foods, and games and books.
- Seal electrical outlets with heavy tape, as well as other cracks and openings for utility lines, such as cable TV.

- Bring pets inside and keep them inside.
- Pick a "shelter room" to stay in. It should have no outside door and as few windows as possible.
- Seal the doors, windows, heating vents and any other openings in your shelter room with tape and plastic sheeting. Place a damp towel at the base of the door.

Bare minimum shelter in place kit

As a last-minute preparation for sheltering in place, quickly gather as many of the following items as you can.

- scissors
- duct tape
- plastic sheeting
- towels (to put under doors)
- radio
- flashlight
- snack foods
- games and books

Shelter in Place: What to Do if You are Not at Home

If you are not at home and a hazardous chemical emergency should occur, follow the same steps that are appropriate to take Shelter in Place. Follow them at your office, a shopping mall, or at a school.

Even if you are in your car, just make sure you have all outside vents, windows and doors closed when you Shelter in Place in your vehicle. Never attempt to drive through a gas cloud. Turn on your radio and listen to further instructions.

If you are outside when you detect an emergency, cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief or cloth. Remember that the chemical is moving with the wind. Don't walk into it or with it. You should move crosswind with the wind at your side. Find shelter as soon as possible. Go inside. Stay inside. And follow the Shelter in Place procedure.

Shelter In Place - Outfit Your Kit

Prepare your kit now, before it's needed.

- Plastic Sheeting - Pre-Cut and labeled for windows and vents.
Tip: If any of the walls of your pre-selected room are exterior walls, you may want to cover the electrical outlets in those walls.
- Radio - Battery powered (be sure to include spare battery).
Tip: If the radio battery were to go dead during the emergency you may be able to use the one from a smoke detector. Remember to replace the smoke detector battery as soon as the emergency is over.
- Non-Perishable Food Items - Snack Bars, Candy, etc.
Tip: A Shelter In Place emergency will probably last only a few hours at the most, so enough food for a week will not be necessary.
- Water & Cups
The containers you choose for the water may not fit in the kit, but should be stored in the pre-selected room.

- Medication, Infant and Pet Supplies, as needed.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Towel - To seal the bottom of the door.
Tip: Make sure you have enough water available for drinking and wetting the towel.
- Games, Toys, etc.
Tip: Shelter in Place will be easier for everyone with a diversion to help pass the time.

For more information:

- Call the Health Department at (740) 349-6831
- E-mail info@newarkhealthdept.org